

EPI Update for Friday, January 9, 2015

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Flu update**
- **Measles outbreaks in California and South Dakota**
- **Chikungunya virus update**
- **Educational materials available at no cost!**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Flu update

Influenza activity is widespread across Iowa. All three strains currently circulating are covered by this year's vaccine - A(H3N2), A(H1N1) and B. Over 50% of the A(H3N2) viruses that are circulating nationally have drifted antigenically and it has been confirmed the drifted strain is in Iowa. The vaccine should provide protection against all strains including partial protection to the drifted strain.

Influenza-related outbreaks continue to be reported in long term care facilities. There have been 32 reported influenza outbreaks in Iowa long term care facilities this influenza season (since October 1, 2014). Long-term care facility outbreaks are listed by region in the weekly IDPH Influenza Surveillance Report at www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluSurveillance. The report is updated each Friday afternoon.

Two influenza-related deaths in children (age 0-17) have been confirmed and a third pediatric death is under investigation. Iowa Code prevents releasing any information leading to identification of any individual; thus, only statewide numbers will be released regarding pediatric deaths in the weekly flu report. (Pediatric deaths are confirmed through death certificates listing influenza as a primary or contributing cause of death.)

Vaccination is still the best defense against the flu and all Iowans over age 6 months should receive the vaccine. Even if a person has had one strain of the flu, they can still get sick with the other strains of the flu circulating in Iowa. It is not too late to be vaccinated. The flu season typically peaks in February and can last until May.

Measles outbreaks in California and South Dakota

The California Department of Public Health has reported nine confirmed cases of measles (seven California residents and two Utah residents). Three additional California residents are suspected to have measles and are under investigation. All confirmed and suspect cases reported visiting Disneyland or Disney California Adventure Park in California between December 15 and December 20, 2014. Patients' ages range from 8 months to 21 years. Six cases were unvaccinated for measles, two were too young to be vaccinated, and one had received appropriate vaccination. Based on the investigation, it is very likely that a person infectious with measles was at one of the theme parks on these dates. Any persons with possible measles, but with no

international travel history should be asked about travel to Southern California, and specifically Disneyland or Disney Adventure Park in Orange County, California.

Also, South Dakota Department of Public Health has reported 12 confirmed cases of measles (eight South Dakota residents and four out-of-state residents). All cases are in an extended family group with ages ranging between 19 months and 41 years and were unvaccinated for measles. None of the children are in public school or day care. None of these cases have any known connection or travel history to Iowa.

For more information on measles, visit www.cdc.gov/measles/.

Chikungunya virus update

The CDC reports local transmission of chikungunya virus has been reported in the northern Mexican state of Sonora and central state of Sinaloa. Prior to this recent notification, local chikungunya cases had only been reported in Chiapas in the south of Mexico.

Given the proximity of Sonora to the United States and likely travel to affected regions in Mexico, CDC anticipates that there might be an increase in travel-related cases in the United States. In addition, as chikungunya virus is likely to spread to other regions in Mexico, the risk of travel-related cases is anticipated to be sustained and, as vectors become active, could result in more local transmission in the continental United States. Chikungunya virus is not transmitted person-to-person; it is only transmitted by mosquitos.

In Iowa, a total of four chikungunya virus disease cases have been reported to IDPH. Three of the cases occurred in travelers returning from affected areas in the Americas and one from a Pacific Island.

Educational materials available at no cost!

Start out the New Year right! Posters, brochures, etc. produced by several IDPH programs are available through the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center (ISAIC) clearinghouse. Materials that relate to infectious disease epidemiology, environmental health, (HIV/AIDS), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), hepatitis, immunization, tobacco use prevention, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program are available. The materials and shipping are at no charge to you.

For information on available materials and ordering from the clearinghouse, visit healthclearhouse.drugfreeinfo.org/cart.php?target=category&category_id=295.

Materials on HIV/AIDS, STDs and hepatitis can also be ordered at www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Products.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Products.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy (and hopefully warmer) week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736